

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 02726 031813Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2726

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: DRAFT REMARKS ON DEDICATION OF NEW
EMBASSY BUILDING

REF: STATE 48297

1. DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: TODAY WE ARE
HERE TO DEDICATE A NEW BUILDING BUILT BY NIGERIANS AND
AMERICANS WORKING SIDE BY SIDE IN JOINT PARTNERSHIP.
NIGERIANS AND AMERICANS TOGETHER PUT UP THE STEEL GIRDERS,
APPLIED THE WALLS, LAID THE FLLORS, AND--I'M SURE ALL OF
YOU WILL BE HAPPY TO KNOW--WILL INSTALL THE AIR-CONDITIONING.
IN ITS INCEPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION, THIS HAS BEEN A JOINT
NIGERIAN-AMERICAN PROJECT. IT INCORPORATES THE LATEST
INNOVATIONS IN EFFICIENT AND ECONOMICAL CONSTRUCTION
TECHNIQUES.

2. THIS NEW AMERICAN EMBASSY IS OF COURSE MUCH MORE THAN
A STATIC STRUCTURE. AN EMBASSY--AND THIS EMBASSY IN
PARTICULAR--IS A LIVING THING WHICH REPRESENTS THE
INCREASINGLY VIBRANT AND SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

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3. THIS NEW BUILDING, AMERICA'S OFFICIAL HOME IN
NIGERIA, SI WHERE HUNDREDS OF NIGERIANS WILL COME EACH WEEK
AND RECEIVE THEIR VISAS FOR TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES.

4. THIS IS WHERE A FULL RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL
SERVICES IS AVAILABLE TO HELP PROMOTE TRADE AND INVESTMENT

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN US. OVERALL TRADE BETWEEN NIGERIA AND THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY INCREASE 145 PERCENT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN NEW AMERICAN INVESTMENT WHICH IS GEARED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA AND WHICH STRESSES THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. WE REMAIN NIGERIA'S LEADING CUSTOMER FOR OIL.

5. OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE ENGAGED IN AN ONGOING DIALOGUE ON MANY ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL POLITICAL IMPORTANCE, A DIALOGUE OF RESPECT AND HEALTHY INTERCHANGE OF VIEWS. THIS INTERCHANGE WILL BENEFIT FROM THESE CONVENIENT AND EFFICIENT FACILITIES.

6. THE NEW EMBASSY IS ALREADY A SYMBOL OF NIGERIAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION AND COMMUNITY. IT WILL HOUSE A STAFF THAT IS MORE NIGERIAN THAN AMERICAN. LOCATED HERE AT THE HOSPITALITY OF OUR NIGERIAN HOSTS, THE EMBASSY IS MEANT TO SERVE AND BENEFIT BOTH PEOPLES. THE DEDICATION OF THIS BUILDING IS AN APPROPRIATE WITNESS TO AN ERA IN WHICH THE TIES BETWEEN NIGERIA AND THE UNITED STATES WILL GROW EVEN CLOSER AND STRONGER.
EASUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED WHITE HOUSE
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